

TESTIMONY

Delivered by Deborah R. Hoyt, President and CEO The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Judiciary Committee

March 13, 2013

S.B. No. 1060 (RAISED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE BY NURSING HOMES, HOME HEALTH CARE AGENCIES AND HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE AGENCIES.

Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Deborah Hoyt, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home.

The Association represents 60 licensed and certified home health and hospice agencies as well as several homemaker-home health aide agencies that perform 5-million home health and community-based visits in our inner cities and rural Connecticut towns each year.

With a growing Connecticut workforce of 11,000 employees, we are the health providers that walk through the front doors of 14,000 state residents <u>each day</u> delivering cost-effective, personcentered care to Connecticut residents, including DSS's Medicaid clients.

While we agree that home health agencies should maintain professional liability insurance, we OPPOSE the need to mandate it through legislation.

The Association surveyed its member agencies last year and again this week to gather data about their liability coverage practices. 100 percent of the home care agencies responding to our survey, both large and small, indicated that they have consistently maintained liability insurance with coverage minimum of \$1-million and an aggregate of \$3-million.

As our home health care agencies have been prudent and responsible business owners and already maintain this level of insurance on a voluntary basis, the Association believes that mandating it through SB 1060 is unnecessary.

Please reach out to us as a resource for additional information at any time.

Thank you.